

A Brief Introduction to the **Farmers Market Nutrition Program Checks** (FMNP & SFMNP) & Fruit & Vegetable Checks (FVC)

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) Overview

- The FMNP is a USDA Supplemental Nutrition Grant Program
- The USDA gives grants to state agencies to provide checks to low-income participants
- Two FMNP programs funded: Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (FMNP) and Seniors (SFMNP)
- Checks can be used to buy fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and honey (Seniors only) at farmers' markets
- In 2014, farmers received more than \$500,000 through the two programs.

How the FMNP Programs Work



MDA provides checks to DHMH & DOA



DOA distributes checks to eligible Seniors



DHMH distributes checks to eligible WIC participants



Participants use checks to buy produce from FMNP authorized farmers at markets

Participant Information

Must qualify based on income (185% of federal poverty level)

Must have proof of residency in Maryland

WIC - \$20

- O Applicants must be pregnant women, infants, or children up to 5 years and have a nutritional need
- O WIC participants receive nutrition education, breastfeeding support, health screenings & referrals to other community support programs
- O Can sign up at WIC clinics

SENIORS - \$30

- O Applicants must be 60 or over
- O Must certify income eligibility on application form
- O Can sign up at participating Senior Centers

Farmer Eligibility & Registration

- Authorized FMNP Farmers must meet the following standards:
- 1. The farmer must complete the Maryland FMNP Farmer Application & Agreement.
- 2. The farmer must agree to abide by all FMNP rules.
- 3. The farmer must sell fruits, vegetables and/or cut herbs and honey (seniors only) grown only in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware or Pennsylvania at a Maryland Farmers Market.
- 4. The farmer must not accept FMNP checks for agricultural produce obtained from wholesale distributors. FMNP checks can only be accepted as payment for produce grown by the authorized farmer.
- 5. The farmer must be in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local governmental laws and regulations and obtain all necessary licenses and permits.

Farmer Application & Agreement is due to Shelby Watson **no later than April 30**.



WIC & SFMNP Key Dates

April 30: Farmer FMNP applications due

June – July: Checks issued to eligible

participants (WIC & Seniors)

June 1: First date that farmers may

accept checks at markets or on-

farm stands

November 30: Last date that farmers may

accept checks at markets or on-

farm stands

December 5: Last date that farmers may

deposit checks for 2014 season



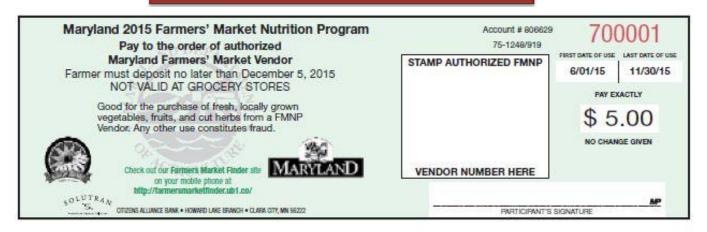
WIC: Eligible foods include all locally grown fruits, vegetables and cut herbs except honey grown by the authorized farmer. Eligible foods may not be processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes.

Seniors: all of the above + honey

INELIGIBLE FOODS

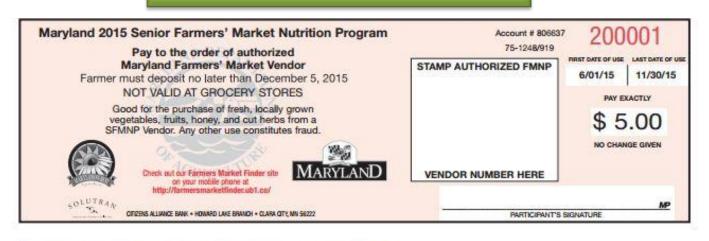


FMNP (WIC)



" 70000 1" 1:0919124821: B06629"

SFMNP (Seniors)



Farmers who are authorized to accept FMNP may also accept WIC FVC checks

stfeedin	AGENCY	PARTICI	IPANT ID NO. NAME OF PARTICIPANT (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)				RST, M.I.)	CHECK NUMBER	
111101 20		200 7	708 439		Test, F		65730059		
Ry Best	FIRST DATE TO SPEND	July 04,	2013	- DATE REDEEMED	STORE USE ONLY	LAST DATE TO SPEND	August 03, 2013	CASHIER FILL AMOUNT O	
	FOR THESE ITEMS &			PAR	TICIPANT OR PROXY S	SIGN FOR PRIC	E CORRECTION ONLY	DOLLARS	CENT
		. t a d	W Y	XX/T/C	Farm	AWCI		T VALID UNLESS ST HORIZED WIC VEND	200000
Als	o acce _l	Jitu	Dy	AN IC	rariii	CLD			OR

Only a small percentage of FVCs are redeemed at farmers markets; the majority are accepted at authorized grocery stores.

Farmers must participate in FMNP to accept FVCs.

There are important differences between the FMNP checks and the WIC FVC.

astfee	AGENCY	AGENCY PARTICIPANT ID NO. 111101 200 708 439		NAME OF PARTICIPANT (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)					CHECK NUMBER		
450	111101				Test, Friday					65730059	
Ry i Be	FIRST DATE TO SPEND July 04, 201		2013	- DATE REDEEMED STORE USE ONLY LAST DATE TO SPEND August 03, 2013				13	CASHIER FILL IN EXAC AMOUNT OF SALE		
CATEGO TO BE USE	ORY: PG D FOR THESE ITEMS A	& OUANTIT	IES ONLY:		TICIDANT OD	DOVY	EICN FOR BRIC	E CORRECTION ONL	- V	DOLLARS	CENT
	en) dollars for Fruits	-		TAK	aren art ox	ROAT	NO. I OKI KIC	D COMME TION ON		s	
Als	so acce _l	oted	by '	WIC	Far	m	ers	СНЕС		VALID UNLESS ST ORIZED WIC VENI	
Maryland	Payable through FSMC An Affiliate of	75-1248	SIGNA	TURE OF PARTI	CIPANT OR AU	THORIZ	ED PROXY				
WIC Program	Security State Bank Howard Lake, MN 55349	919	x			VEND	VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF LAST DATE TO SPEND				



	FVC	FMNP				
	WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks	Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Checks				
When Issued?	Monthly	Once/year during the market season				
What are the values of the checks?	\$8 \$10 \$15	\$5 (4 checks totaling \$20)				
Can the participant pay cash if the purchase price exceeds the value of the check?	Yes	Yes				
Can the participant receive change if the purchase price is less than the value of the check?	No	No				
Is the participant's name on the check	Yes	No				
Customer Usage	Participant must use check between the dates listed on the checks	Participant may use check anytime between June 1 and November 30				
	Farmers are required to write the purchase price on all checks	Price is pre-filled				
	Participant must sign checks and present ID Folder	Participant must sign checks and present ID Folder				
Product Types	Fruits and Vegetables from any source	Grown in Maryland or contiguous counties of bordering states				
	No herbs	Herbs allowed				
Deposit Procedure	Farmers are to put assigned FMNP stamp on all FVC checks	Farmers are to put assigned FMNP stamp on all FMNP checks				
	Checks need to be deposited within 30 days of the last date-to-spend on check	Farmers can deposit checks anytime between June 1 and December 5				
9	Farmer responsible for returned check charges if returned by the bank	Farmer responsible for returned check charges if returned by the bank				
Agreement with the State	Each individual farmer must have a signed written agreement with the State WIC Program	Each individual farmer must have a signed written agreement with the MD Dept of Agriculture once every three years and provide locations to MDA annually				
Training	Each farmer must attend training on regulations and procedures of FVCs in first year of program participation, and every three years thereafter	Each farmer must attend training on regulation and procedures of FMNP in first year of program participation, and every three years thereafte				
Questions	Contact the WIC Vendor Unit at 410-767-5242	Contact the Dept of Agriculture at 410-841-5776				

FARMERS ARE REQUIRED TO DISPLAY THEIR FARM NAME & THE FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM SIGN

OLD MACDONAL D'S FARM

Farmers Market Nutrition Program

(FMNP - WIC & Seniors)
Checks
and
WIC Fruit &
Vegetable Checks

WELCOME HERE







Sponsored by: Maryland WIC Program 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) Maryland Department of Agriculture 1-800-495-5590 Maryland Department of Aging 1-800-243-3425

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

More Information

- Handouts available for 2015 season:
 - General program & participant information
 - MDA FMNP Rules & Regulations
 - 2015 FMNP Farmer Application Form & Agreement
- MDA Farmers' Market page: <u>http://mda.maryland.gov/maryland_products/Pages/farmers_market_dir.aspx</u>
- USDA WIC Program:
 - http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/
- USDA Seniors Program:
 - http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/SeniorFMNP/SFMNPmenu.h
 tm

Points of Contact

OMDA:

Shelby Watson

FMNP Administrator

50 Harry S Truman Pkwy.

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: (410) 841-5776

Email: shelby.watson@maryland.gov

⊻ **O**DHMH

Judy Simon

Nutrition & Health Promotion Programs

Manager

ODOA

301 W. Preston Street, Suite 1007

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-767-1090 or

1-800-243-3425, ext. 71090

Email: JSimon@ooa.state.md.us

Terri Buckler

MD WIC Program

201 W. Preston St., 1st Floor

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: (410) 767-5722

Email: terri.buckler@maryland.gov

